

REFLECTIONS upon George Keith's late ADVERTISEMENT of
*a Meeting to be held by him and his Friends, at Turner's-Hall on the Eleventh
 of the Fourth Month, 1696. to which he saith, William Penn, Thomas
 Ellwood, George Whitehead, John Penington, and the Second Days
 Weekly Meeting at London, called Quakers, are justly desired to be present,
 to hear themselves Charged, &c.*

2*

8/6 m 20

3.

Although I might here justly except against the Constitution of
 the Meeting, the Authority and Warrantableness of his pe-
 remptory Summons, the Reasonableness as well as Seasonable-
 ness of the Demand, &c. yet being willing to pursue Method,
 though I have no good Example before me, I shall first take
 Cognizance of what G. K. Assigns, under several Heads, as
 the Basis of his Proposed, as well as Imposed Debate. If they
 are not of Weight, or Agreeable to the Structure raised, a Summary at the close
 may suffice, that I dilate not the Controversy unnecessarily.

His First Article is, *That W. Penn hath accused him in a publick Meeting at Rat-
 cliff, of being an Apostate, and Impostor, and endeavouring to pluck up the Testimony of
 Truth by the Roots.* To which I say, Had not his Apostasy been sufficiently proved,
 even by himself, in the Scene of his Transactions, both Private and Publick, since
 his last coming into England; yet inasmuch as those several Apologetical Tracts
 (written by Tho. Ellwood, Caleb Pusey and my self, Entituled, *A farther Discov-
 ery, Truth Defended, A Modest Account, An Apostate Expos'd,* to two of which
 (viz. those of T. E's) he tells us, in his Postscript to a late Pamphlet, Stiled,
Gross Error, It is probable a due Answer may be given in due time) remain as yet un-
 answered by him, the Charge lies upon him, and the Proof at his Door, - not to
 be supplied by a Verbal Conference in a Corner, as the most publick Disputes are,
 in comparison of the Press. The Name *Impostor*, I remember not to have heard
 made part of the Charge till now, yet if he will consult his Dictionary, as he once
 did upon the calling of a Friend *Impudent Rascal*, he may find it denotes a De-
 ceiver. But the Name I fear more offends him than the *Nature*; yet that, and
 his endeavouring to pluck up the Testimony of Truth by the Roots, as they suit
 with his Actions, so have they been in Print proved upon him in the above recited
 and other Treatises.

Not will his pretence in the succeeding lines, *That W. P. promised to answer
 him (before many Witnesses) when G. K. told him, he thought to put him to prove his
 Charge in the Face of the Nation, stand him in any stead; for that he may yet do,*
 when G. K. makes the onset. Is he so idle to think a Provocation to meet him
 at *Turner's-Hall*, is a putting him to prove his Charge in the Face of the Nation?
 What heads as a Charge against W. P. out of his Books, I refer till I come
 to his Third Head, wherein he objects the same against G. W.

He goes on to a Secondly, *Whereas Thomas Ellwood hath printed sundry Defa-
 matory Books against me, I charge him to be guilty of false Accusations, &c.* Then to
 a Thirdly against G. W. of which more anon; so to a Fourthly against me, for
 printing

printing (as he alledges) Defamatory Books against him, and accusing (he should have added proving too, for that was also done) him to be an Apostate; &c. and Fifthly, against the Second Days Weekly Meeting at London, for approving or countenancing those Books, and another signed by Caleb Pusey (of which above) and then Declares, if it happen that few or NONE of us be present at the said Meeting, being conscious (as he saith) of the badness of our Cause, his full intention to be present with his Friends, at the said time and place, to make good the Charge against us, to which he allows any moderate and friendly people of other Professions to be present, so far as there is room without Crowding. And is all this bulle, I pray, to answer or evade our Charge? In what time doth he propose to enervate so many Quotations, Arguments, Deductions, Instances, &c. out of his and others Books, to shew the fallacy of the one, the inconsistency of the other; the Perversions, Forgeries, false Accusations, &c. when those very Books of T. E's (not to mention the rest) which he hath given some faint Expectation he would Answer, are above Eighteen Sheets of large Paper, close Printed? Is this Man in Earnest, or doth he think any Judicious Man can take him to be so? Or doth not he rather seek to make some Bravado, some idle Flourish to slip from his Purgation? Indeed the very Title Page bespeaks some such thing, where he proposeth, not a clearing himself, but a recriminating others. He tells us, *We are justly desired to be present, to hear our selves Charged, and proved Guilty of the following things, and we shall be freely heard, to answer to our several Charges.* But stay a little, all in good time; we are upon the *Defensive*, he upon the *Offensive* part, Defending our Friends and Society from his Repeated, Impetuous Slanders and Defamations, wherewith he had unjustly loaded them, and labouring to throw off the Dirt he had endeavoured to fling on, even while he would have laid claim to Membership, yea Eldership. And in the Prosecution hereof, when he Calumniates, we detect him; when he deviates from his former Pretences and Principles, we justly expose him, and declare him to be a *Deceiver*, *Apostate*, &c. having first proved it upon him. Now if he (who is the *Aggressor*) find himself aggrieved, how can he expect Relief, by falling upon us, for so charging him, or by evidencing his own Innocency? But his Work is a meer *Over-sight*, he begins at the wrong end; instead of discharging himself (which he knows he can never do) he re-charges us, making it a crime in us to tell him he did amiss, though we shew wherein; for which we must (if we will answer his Challenge) be convened before him and his, to answer (in a Meeting of his own picking) to several general Heads, the discussing whereof, even before Competent Judges, as they would branch forth into many particulars, so perhaps (were the Auditory a more composed, settled Company, than this is like to be) would take up instead of a Day, Weeks to debate. And when all is done, the Controversy hitherto hath been *Publick* in the Face of the Nation and Nations, there it will be in *Private*, in respect of what comes abroad in Print: Nor is such an Assembly like to determine the matter without the Press, but to renew a fresh occasion to Print, yet perhaps with this hoped advantage to the Proposer, that running off from that Cause he is already hampered with, and uneasy under, he may wrangle afresh upon some *Out-skirts* of the Controversy, and drop the *Main* one. And this I take to be the design.

His *Thirdly* (which I promised even now to take notice of) is levelled against *Geo. Whitehead* for joining with a *Prevailing Party* in what called the *Yearly Meeting*, to pass (what he calls) a most *Unchristian Censure of Excommunication* against him, without Proof, &c. But why is *G. W.* here singled out, and not the whole *Prevailing Party*, as he terms them, included, except that he have a more particular Pique at him?

In the same Paragraph he goes on and tells us, *I offer to prove the said George Whitehead, out of some of his printed Books (which is doth not appear that he hath retracted or corrected) guilty of most Erronious and Hateful Principles, contrary to the Fundamental Doctrine of the Christian Faith and Religion.* The like he had said before of *W. Penn.* only with this addition, *That W. P. is guilty of gross Contradiction to himself*; for he is forward at Charging; when it comes to Proof, he falls short. Yet may I remind him, that two Books lie upon his Hands unanswered, which treat of this very Subject; the one written by *T. E.* called, *Truth Defended*; the other by my self, Entituled, *An Apostasy Exposed*, in Answer to three of his, called, *Nameless Bull, True Copy, and Gross Error.* In the one they are cleared from several *False Deductions, Inferences, &c.* brought by *G. K.* to which he pretended he would give Answer, but never did yet; in the other his Quotations out of those very Books of theirs, out of which he hath since pickt Quarrels, are oposed to his later Sense, not only of the Authors, but of the very Books themselves, to which also no Answer hath been yet given. So that it is not so much his different Sense (or Opinion) of *G. W.* and *W. P.* (as he would insinuate, p. 4. Of this Advertisement) but even of their Books, calling that *Orthodox* one year, which he represents as *Heterodox* another; that I was drawn to Detect and Expose. However two things occur to me from the Premises, First, That printed Books (not *Retracted or Corrected*) are good Evidence against *G. W.* and *W. P.* and are they not so against *G. K.* especially seeing he hath confessed *True Copy*, p. 17. That some of his need some further Explanation, Emendation and Correction, and promised to do it, tho' in that he keeps his word with us, as he hath hitherto done with *T. E.* Secondly, That it is not reasonable for him to expect his renewed Charge against *G. W.* and *W. P.* of the same Nature as the former, should be Heard and Debated in a *Select Assembly* of his own, when he is Debtor to two Tracts, publish'd some Months since, where the matter hath been so handled, that he hath not thought fit to Reply. Let him fairly clear his Hands of what is already depending, and which he hath chose to concert in Print, and then offer new if he hath any. Till then he must excuse us, that we cannot comply with his empty and shifting Subterfuges, whereby to turn the course of the Controversy out of its due and proper Channel; whither he brought it, into an indirect one, where he would now lead us, to drown it.

What follows being mostly a catching at a passage or two out of those Books of *T. E.*'s, which he hath not attempted to Answer, I touch the lighter on, as seeming it an unmanly way of Treating an Opponent, in which I design not to gratifie him. And he is the more inexcusable, inasmuch as the odds, in his Eyes, is so great between them, *G. K.* being a Man, who (as he tells us in his *Serious Appeal*, p. 29. *Hath the Gifts both of Sound Knowledge and Expression, with manifold other Merits bestowed upon him*: *T. E.* on the other Hand, is represented by

by G. K. p. 3. of this Advertisement, grossly Ignorant of Human Learning, guilty of Pedanick Trifling and Quibbling. But G. K. is not the only Adversary, who hath made up in *Knavery*, what he wanted in *Learning*, or been forced to sink under the weight of a bad Cause: For *Great is the Truth, and it doth and will prevail*.

He tells us in p. 3. *He hath neither time, nor ability of outward Affairs, to give Answers to him or others, that keep Book upon Book against him.* What time he hath, or how he employs it, I underſtand take not to determine; but he ſhould, like a wiſe Builder, have counted the Coſt before he began with us, and not blame us for answering his Books, after he hath given the Provocation. Yet time was, when he took time to ſcribble Books very faſt, and that at a time when the Preſs was in his Parties Hands; but I muſt con- tain from the *ſiſt* time that he hath met with Opponents; and that he hath been put upon to prove, as well as allege. Time or Ability hath mightily failed him. An evi- dence whereof he gave in his *ſiſt* onlet, who inſtead of an answer to T. E. emitted an Epistle, wherein he laboured to perſuade Friends to anticipate his Work, by *Call ing in T. E's* Sheets and diſ- owning them, upon a preſumption what a *Big heart* he was, and that he had no leſs than *ſiſty* Per- versions, Forgeries and Fictions, to lay to his Charge. But when that had not its *ſuſſed* effect, to Condemn T. E. unheard, for his Proof was yet to produce, but he was obliged to prior his Answer; ſuch as it was, more Noſe than Matter; or forfeit his Credit; a Reply at length came out under the Title of *A reaſonable Information*, &c. and T. E. rejoined in his, called, *A further Diſcovery*, which hath lain upon G. K's Hands ever ſince, though once he told us it was probable, that ſaid ano- ther of T. E's called, *Truth Deſecrated*, might be answered in due time, as hath been hinted already. But now to extricate himſelf, he would excuſe himſelf from printing, for want of time and ability of Outward Affairs as well as that he inſinuates p. 4. that W. P's calling him *Apoſtate* hath that tendency; for he ſaith, *His wife and Children are affected with it: and that is tends to the expoſing of them to Ruine and War, and he came among us for Outward Ends.* If ſo, the diſappointment is juſt. But if he be not a Man alone, one of no *ſenſibility*, which he is offended with T. E. for ſuppoſing, a Man would think, *So conſiderable a number of Friends*, wherein he would have us believe, his *Tell- money* is ſo well received, who have publiſh'd *againſt him and his Chriſtian Teſtimony*, and that in a printed Treatiſe too, (as be ſaith) might ſet to their ſhoulders, and help ease him of his Charge, if ſo printed, *ſuſſed* be not ſo grateful to them, than they are to himſelf.

Yet ſomething more I cannot but obſerve in p. 3. where finding fault with T. E's *Proſe* (as he terms it) upon his plain words, he ſaith, *Let the Reader but read my words in my own Book, and as the ſiſt ſight he muſt ſee the Cheat and Forgery.* That is more than my Eyes can do at ſecond ſight; but to return, here he refers to his own Book, why did he not ſay, *Let him meet me at Turners-Hall, and I will prove it?* By this the ridiculousneſs of this Meeting ſhew'd it ſelf: for a Man will readily ſay, *Controversy in Print is decided by Print*, an Abuse or Forgery there; by compariſon Book with Book; and if he thought his *Deſenſible*, I doubt not but he would have done it.

Theſe ſhort Touches I hope will ſaſſie the *Candid and Juſticious*, that we are not concerned to follow him in his ſeveral Doubles and Twiſſings, but to hold him to his Task he hath taken upon himſelf, and that his Demand is like ſome Unreaſonable, if we conſider either the *Proſes* Cha- llinging, one that is gone off from us the Place, a Meeting ſet up in Oppoſition to us and our Meet- ings, which he terms in the Title Page, *Their Uſual Meeting-place*, as if it had been of ſome conſiderable Duration, when perhaps two Months ago they had none there; if the *Company* he calls his Friends, a Separation or of a Separation, that hath deſamed and perverſly expoſed Friends, even when he himſelf was againſt them; if the *miſt Auditors*, ſuch as never were of our Communion, and that they will be either *Moderate or Feaſible*, we have but his bare word for, who needs a *Power* for his own Department, or that he either can or would keep out the very Rabble, whom his publick Advertisement is moſt likely to draw in, is a great Queſtion; if the *Perſon* he ſays is the *Sinners*, as if we were at his beck to come and go, when and where he pleaſed in appointing the *Expoſer*, if any Diſorder happen, for he is none of the moſt Orderly himſelf; beſides that the *Company*, *deſenſible* is already in a more open, free and publick Court in Print, into which he drew us, and till of late hath pettiſhed in, though ſome what ſtately, as well as promiſed to purſue; and that a *Heating*, tho' never ſo publick, bears no Proportion to the *Preſs*, where he began. The which *Conſiderations*, whether of weight with him or no, we dare leave with the *Only iſſed*, as ſufficient whereunto to reſpect and reſuſe our Compliance with his Preemptory Demands.

John Perington.

8-1
8-2

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100